

(1) the result of the July 2017 National Constituent Assembly election was manipulated; and

(2) a change of more than 1,000,000 votes occurred in the final tabulation;

Whereas a global coalition of more than 40 countries have rejected the installation of Venezuela's National Constituent Assembly and refused to recognize it as a legitimate institution;

Whereas the collapse of democratic governance and the proliferation of political corruption, criminal violence, failed economic policies, and hyperinflation have created a devastating humanitarian crisis in Venezuela;

Whereas the majority of Venezuela's citizens lack access to essential medicines and basic food supplies;

Whereas the precarious humanitarian conditions in Venezuela have prompted hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan citizens to emigrate, which is fueling a migration and refugee crisis in neighboring countries;

Whereas, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has stated that the Office of the Prosecutor will open a preliminary examination of the Venezuelan Government's use of torture and excessive force against demonstrators and the arbitrary detention of thousands of anti-government protesters;

Whereas, despite the presence of international mediators, the Government of Venezuela failed to credibly participate in negotiations with the country's political opposition in order to reach an agreement that would—

- (1) restore democracy;
- (2) free political prisoners;
- (3) facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid; and
- (4) establish conditions for legitimate democratic elections:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Venezuela to postpone the presidential election and any concurrent National Assembly, state legislative council, or municipal council elections scheduled for April 22, 2018, until—

(A) international and local election observers from credible organizations are allowed to observe the electoral process, including the pre-election period, and determine a legitimate process;

(B) the National Electoral Council is led and staffed by nonpartisan members that have the confidence of contesting parties;

(C) opposition parties and candidates are free to peacefully compete in the election without threat of arrest, harassment, or retribution, including access to government controlled media;

(D) arrangements are made for all Venezuelan voters, including those residing outside of Venezuela, to be able to participate in the election; and

(E) there is no implied or direct link between an individual's vote and the government food rations to which the individual is eligible and no record is retained of a voter's choice for any reason related to government benefits, including retaliation;

(2) denounces as illegitimate any presidential election in Venezuela that fails to meet the standards described in paragraph (1);

(3) condemns the steps taken by President Maduro—

(A) to consolidate an authoritarian government in Venezuela; and

(B) to undermine the independence of democratic institutions such as the National Assembly of Venezuela, the Supreme Tribunal of Justice of Venezuela, and the National Electoral Council of Venezuela;

(4) rejects the Venezuelan Government's efforts to blame the country's economic, humanitarian, and political crisis on other actors instead of recognizing that the crisis was caused by its own malfeasance and criminality;

(5) urges the Government of Venezuela—

(A) to permit the unobstructed delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela; and

(B) to stop using food as a tool of political coercion;

(6) condemns the Government of Venezuela for failing to credibly participate in internationally mediated negotiations—

(A) to restore democracy;

(B) to free political prisoners; and

(C) to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(7) supports the decision of the Government of Peru, as host of the Eighth Summit of the Americas, to not invite President Maduro; and

(8) supports the efforts of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to examine the Venezuelan Government's use of torture, excessive force, and arbitrary detentions against Venezuelan citizens.

SENATE RESOLUTION 415—DESIGNATING MARCH 2, 2018, AS “NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 415

Whereas it is essential for youth to learn and practice the art of communicating with and without technology;

Whereas speech and debate education offers students myriad forms of public speaking through which students may develop talent and exercise unique voice and character;

Whereas speech and debate education gives students the 21st-century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration;

Whereas critical analysis and effective communication allow important ideas, texts, and philosophies the opportunity to flourish;

Whereas personal, professional, and civic interactions are enhanced by the ability of the participants in those interactions to listen, concur, question, and dissent with reason and compassion;

Whereas students who participate in speech and debate have chosen a challenging activity that requires regular practice, dedication, and hard work;

Whereas teachers and coaches of speech and debate devote in-school, afterschool, and weekend hours to equip students with life-changing skills and opportunities;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the lifelong impact of providing people of the United States with the confidence and preparation to both discern and share views;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day acknowledges that most achievements, celebrations, commemorations, and pivotal moments in modern history begin, end, or are crystallized with public address;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day recognizes that learning to research, construct, and present an argument is integral to personal advocacy, social movements, and the making of public policy;

Whereas the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, honors and celebrates the im-

portance of speech and debate through National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the importance of speech and debate education and the integration of speech and debate education across grade levels and disciplines: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2018, as “National Speech and Debate Education Day”;:

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and all people of the United States to celebrate and promote National Speech and Debate Education Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 416—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 416

Whereas a competitive global economy requires workers who are prepared for skilled professions;

Whereas, according to Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute, 84 percent of executives agree that there is a talent shortage in manufacturing in the United States, including talent for front-line worker jobs such as machinists, operators, craft workers, distributors, and technicians;

Whereas career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) ensures that competitive and skilled workers are ready, willing, and capable of holding jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing, allied health, construction, information technology, energy sustainability, and many other career fields that are vital in keeping the United States competitive in the global economy;

Whereas CTE helps the United States meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement, and global competitiveness;

Whereas the United States has 30,000,000 jobs with an average income of \$55,000 per year that do not require a bachelor's degree yet increasingly require some level of post-secondary education;

Whereas nearly 12,000,000 students are enrolled in CTE across the country with CTE programs in thousands of CTE centers, comprehensive high schools, career academies, and CTE high schools, and nearly 1,600 2-year colleges;